

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head, comprising:
  - a first pole piece;
  - a second pole piece made of a front pole tip and a back gap P2 pedestal;
  - a gap layer which separates the first pole piece and the front pole tip of the second pole piece at an air bearing surface (ABS);
  - a front connecting pedestal at least partially formed over the front pole tip and having a front edge that is recessed behind the ABS;
  - a back gap connecting pedestal at least partially formed over the back gap pedestal;
  - an insulator material formed in between the front and the back connecting pedestals; and

a yoke formed over the front and the back gap connecting pedestals and having a front edge that is recessed behind the ABS.

10. (Original) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the yoke comprises a highly resistive magnetic material.

11. (Original) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the yoke comprises a laminated structure of alternating magnetic and dielectric layers.

12. (Original) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the front pole tip, the back gap pedestal, and the front and the back gap connecting pedestals comprise electroplated structures.

13. (Original) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the front and the back gap connecting pedestals comprise a magnetic material.

14. (Currently Amended) A disk drive, comprising:  
at least one rotatable magnetic disk;  
a spindle supporting the at least one rotatable magnetic disk;  
a disk drive motor for rotating the at least one rotatable magnetic disk;  
a magnetic head for writing data to the at least one rotatable magnetic disk;  
a slider for supporting the magnetic head;  
the magnetic head including:  
a first pole piece;  
a second pole piece made of a front pole tip and a back gap pedestal;  
a gap layer which separates the first pole piece and the front pole tip of the second pole piece at an air bearing surface (ABS);

a front connecting pedestal at least partially formed over the front pole tip and having a front edge that is recessed behind the ABS;

a back gap connecting pedestal at least partially formed over the back gap pedestal;

an insulator material formed in between the front and the back connecting pedestals; and

a yoke formed over the front and the back gap connecting pedestals and having a front edge that is recessed behind the ABS.

15. (Original) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the yoke of the magnetic head comprises a highly resistive magnetic material.

16. (Original) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the yoke of the magnetic head comprises a laminated structure of alternating magnetic and dielectric layers.

17. (Original) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the front pole tip, the back gap pedestal, and the front and the back gap connecting pedestals comprise electroplated structures.

18. (Original) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the front and the back gap connecting pedestals comprise a magnetic material.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the front edge of the front connecting pedestal is recessed behind the ABS between 0.05-2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

27. (New) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the front pole tip is formed at the ABS.

28. (New) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein insulator materials are formed between the front connecting pedestal and the ABS.

29. (New) The magnetic head of claim 9, wherein the front pole tip is not structurally damaged due to insulator materials formed between the front connecting pedestal and the ABS.

30. (New) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the front edge of the front connecting pedestal is recessed behind the ABS between 0.05-2.0  $\mu\text{m}$ .

31. (New) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the front pole tip is formed at the ABS.

32. (New) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein insulator materials are formed between the front connecting pedestal and the ABS.

33. (New) The disk drive of claim 14, wherein the front pole tip is not structurally damaged due to insulator materials formed between the front connecting pedestal and the ABS.